

## A Message From Our Sponsor:



**Richard Onizuka Ph.D.,**  
HCA, Director of Policy and  
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Dear Stakeholders:

Thanks to all who participated in the Washington State Health Information Technology (HIT) Forum on November 16. It was a great turnout, with almost 80 stakeholders participating in-person and 100 via webcast. Our next forum is tentatively scheduled for early March 2011. This quarterly forum provides a platform for the Health Care Authority to meet state and federal requirements for transparency and accountability of health IT programs.

The target audience for the forum is all stakeholders of the programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. At the forum, we provide the latest updates on ARRA/HITECH programs and bring in speakers who are industry experts to provide guidance to our stakeholders. The forum also provides us with valuable stakeholder feedback to help us develop and implement tools and communications to help stakeholders adopt, implement or upgrade (AIU) certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology and meet meaningful use requirements. Forum slides and handouts are available [online](#).

The analysis summary of the HIT Adoption and Meaningful Use Readiness survey will be published in mid-December and available for stakeholders on the resources page of our Federal Stimulus [website](#). This summary will include results from the e-Prescribing Impact and Adoption in Washington State Pharmacies survey, which was co-sponsored by the Washington State Pharmacy Association and OneHealthPort to explore the impact and value of e-Prescribing for pharmacies. This survey data will help guide our efforts to meet the requirements of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology.

We are in the final stages of gaining approval from the ONC to begin the implementation phase of the State HIE Cooperative Agreement. Our HIE Lead Organization, OneHealthPort, is working to finalize a contract with the apparent successful vendor for the HIE Hub and kick-off implementation in January 2011.

Thanks again for your support and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Best regards,



Richard Onizuka, PhD

# **ARRA/HITECH Program Update:**

## **Health Information Exchange (HIE) Planning and Implementation**

### **Lead Organization – OneHealthPort (OHP)**

Based on the results of an extensive procurement process, OneHealthPort has selected Axway as the provider of secure Hub services for the statewide HIE. The HIE Leadership Group ratified this recommendation. Axway received the highest scores for features and functions and it was also the lowest cost offering. Most importantly, the scoring team concluded that Axway was the best fit with the “thin-layer” HIE model approved by Washington State stakeholders. OneHealthPort will be working on a number of tasks in parallel to bring the HIE Hub service to market in early 2011:

- Negotiate a contract with Axway
- Work with the HIE leadership group on a pricing and policy model
- Submit the pricing and policy model to the Community HIE Oversight Organization, supported by the Foundation for Health Care Quality, for approval
- Continue development of an optimal MPI/RLS solution for the community
- Commence marketing efforts and seek early adopters for the HIE Hub service

## **Electronic Health Records Loan Program**

### **Lead Organization has not been selected**

No funding opportunity announcements to date from ONC.

## **Beacon Community**

### **Lead Organization – Beacon Community of Inland Northwest (BCIN) – an INHS Collaboration**

BCIN is implementing a comprehensive technology infrastructure to support the key program areas of health information exchange, care coordination, and quality measurement and reporting. Provider enrollment will begin now that provider participation agreements and data elements needed for care coordination and measurement to the CCD framework are complete. The project has turned its focus to work flow for care coordination activities across all BCIN settings.

## **Workforce Training and Development**

### **Lead Organization – Bellevue College (BC)**

Bellevue College leads a 10-state health IT community college consortia, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. Washington's goal is to enroll 300 students into health IT training and assist them to employment by April, 2012. Currently, students are enrolled in classes targeting dislocated IT workers and ambulatory practice office managers. BC also leads the Washington Community College Health IT Collaborative, and is convening a statewide meeting in February. As a principal partner in the National Veteran's Health IT Apprenticeship initiative, BC will be the first pilot training site in the nation.

## **Health IT Regional Extension Program (RECs)**

### **Lead Organization – Qualis Health/WIREC**

The Washington and Idaho Regional Extension Center (WIREC) enrolled 5% of the total number of providers participating in the Regional Extension Center program nationally. As of mid-November, there were 860 providers signed up for WIREC's technical assistance services and 17,000 provider participants involved in the REC program nationally. WIREC's ability to provide technical assistance is not limited by a provider's EHR application type. Currently, they support providers on 23 (and counting) different EHR systems.

## **Research & Development (R&D) and New Technology Research Grants**

### **Lead Organization – University of Washington (UW).**

The University of Washington (UW) is collaborating on the Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects (SHARP) Program. The purpose of SHARP is to fund research focused on achieving breakthrough advances to address well-documented problems that have impeded adoption of health IT. SHARP also aims to accelerate progress toward achieving nationwide meaningful use of health IT in support of a high-performing, continuously-learning health care system. Four centers of excellence have been funded in the following areas: (1) *Security and Privacy* led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, (2) *Patient Centered Cognitive Support* led by the University of Texas at Houston, (3) *Applications and Network*

*Design* led by Harvard University, and (4) *Secondary Use of EHR Data* led by the Mayo Clinic. The University of Washington (UW) is a lead institution in area 2, the *National Center for Cognitive Informatics and Decision Making*.

UW's research is focused on work-centered design of care process improvement in health information technology (HIT). This project is led by Keith Butler and Mark Haselkorn, in the Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering, and will generate a set of specific metrics and methods that (1) foster HIT usability, (2) link HIT design to desired healthcare processes, and (3) demonstrate process and healthcare improvement from the adoption of HIT designed to support healthcare workflow and achieve quality healthcare. This project will provide tools to increase HIT adoption, cost effectiveness and meaningful use by explicitly linking vendor design of HIT information architecture to current and desired clinical processes. In addition, UW's project will integrate vendor-focused solutions with social-organizational issues in healthcare environments to increase stakeholder trust, adoption, and ownership of HIT.

To accomplish these goals, UW is working closely with clinical facilities, Regional Extension Centers, HIT vendors and other SHARP researchers. For more information or to explore participation, please contact [Keith Butler](#) or [Mark Haselkorn](#).

#### **ARRA Comparative Effectiveness Research:**

The UW and the Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program (SCOAP) announced an \$11.7 million grant award from the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research to create a comparative effectiveness research platform at SCOAP partner hospitals. The SCOAP Comparative Effectiveness Research Translation Network (SCOAP CERTN) will increase automated data flow into SCOAP and provide long-term clinical, functional and quality of life and healthcare cost data for both QI and research. The grant is being led by Dave Flum.

The Health Informatics team that is focused on extracting data from electronic medical records is being led by Peter Tarczy-Hornoch and involves other UW biomedical informatics faculty including Meliha Yetisgen-Yildiz (focusing on text mining), Erik Van Eaton (focusing on evaluating performance of semi-automated data extraction) and Beth Devine focused on using informatics tools for the CER elements of the grant. For more information please contact [Peter Tarczy-Hornoch](#).

## **Other HIT Program Coordination:**

### **State Medicaid**

#### **Medicaid Purchasing Administration (MPA)**

Medicaid will soon publish the State Medicaid Health IT Plan (SMHP), which includes the EHR Incentive Payment Program, plus a Fact Sheet. A team comprised of Medicaid and HCA team members and leadership are reviewing draft documents the first week in December. Target date for submission of SMHP is December 2010, with the implementation advanced planning document (IAPD) following in early January. CMS must approve both plans.

The Medicaid team is working on an educational outreach campaign and key messages for the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Payment Program. Medicaid is working on a robust tool kit for providers. The tool kit will include information regarding program sign-up and how Medicaid will calculate program eligibility for both eligible professionals and hospitals. The first-year goals will be aimed at obtaining funding for program administration, and incentives for adoption, implementation, and upgrade (AIU) of EHR systems. Planned meaningful use incentive payments for year one will be AIU-only for eligible professionals, and AIU and meaningful use for hospitals.

### **Telemedicine/Telehealth and Broadband**

#### **Lead Organization – Washington Telehealth Consortium**

About 40 people attended a November 16th forum on telehealth and telemedicine in the Glaser Auditorium, at the Swedish Medical Center First Hill campus. The forum was co-sponsored by the Washington Telehealth Consortium (WTC), HCA's lead organization for telehealth and telemedicine, and the [Northwest Telehealth Resource Center](#).

The forum covered a wide range of topics, from a review of basics (what equipment do I need? what will I get paid for providing this service?) to a glimpse of what a fully realized telehealth network in Utah is doing to promote and advance the use of distance consults and distance learning.

Presenters at the forum included Cara Towle, Director of Telehealth at the University of Washington School of Medicine; Chara Chamie, Network Coordinator for the Northwest Regional Telestroke Network; Tom Brewer, Executive Director of the Northwest Telehealth Resource Center; Ross Hurd, Chief Information Officer, Lake Chelan Community Hospital; Jodi Palmer, Assistant Director, Western Washington Area Health Education Center; Barbara Engstrom, Principal, Grants Management Northwest; Christina Thielst, Northwest Telehealth Resource Center; and Deb LaMarche, Director of Utah Telehealth.

A similar conference is planned for the spring in eastern Washington, using financial support from the Northwest Telehealth Resource Center and the Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts.

Washington Telehealth Consortium Chairman, Jeff Mero, announced that his group is negotiating with a vendor to design the Washington Telehealth Exchange, a “next generation” solution that will link the state’s various telehealth/telemedicine networks to improve the reach and efficiency of those services. The design will complement the proposed Health Information Exchange Hub under development by OneHealthPort, allowing for video and audio to track alongside medical data exchange between health care providers in the state.

## **Health Record Bank (HRB) Pilot Programs**

### **Health Care Authority**

This public-private partnership continues make significant progress. Recent site visits at the state-funded HRBs in Bellingham, Wenatchee and Spokane provided status updates and real time demonstrations. While we have not visited the Department of Defense (Madigan Army Medical Center) HRB, they report increased enrollment and progress with their program.

The three state-funded HRBs have met every milestone from March through October, and in most cases are ahead of schedule. Progress made across all HRBs include: simplifying the registration and sign-on process for a more streamlined user experience; adding state of the art tools and providing much more data that can increase consumer use of their health information and bring more value to consumers and providers.

The Bellingham and Wenatchee HRBs have exceeded the requirements for data types and include medications, allergies, labs, immunizations, medical conditions, procedures, patient demographics and other administrative information normally documented in the doctor office “clip board.” In addition, the personal health record portion in both of these HRBs has a new look and feel, making them easier to navigate and use.

Both Wenatchee and Bellingham are using the Microsoft Health Record Vault as a platform for their respective HRBs. Both sites report having had enormous support and firm commitments from Microsoft in this partnership.

All HRBs have worked closely with consumers as well as providers in expanding HRB functionality, in providing useful tools and adding the right data types to help assure the HRB health information is of demonstrated value and used by consumers and providers.

All HRBs will continue to test and refine the technical improvements and begin their promotion and outreach to consumers through the end of the year, for enrollment in January 2011. Initial efforts will focus on patients with chronic conditions, women with children, caregivers, foster children, and consumers whose health care is provided through state programs.

A PowerPoint presentation of the three state funded HRB updates can be found on the [website](#). Contact information for each project site is in their respective slides. For additional information on the HRB Project contact [Juan Alaniz](#).

## **eHealth Collaborative Enterprise Project Status**

- Waiting for ONC to review and approve the Washington State HIE Strategic and Operational Plans now available [online](#)
- Working collaboratively with Medicaid and WIREC to create “meaningful use” messaging and provide information about the EHR Incentive Program
- Analyzing HIT adoption and meaningful use readiness survey results, preparing summary document of survey results for stakeholders
- Collaborating with the Washington State Pharmacy Association, Washington State Board of Pharmacy, and OneHealthPort to organize a focus group in follow-up to the e-Prescribing Impact and Adoption survey recently distributed to all ambulatory care pharmacies